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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary of State  
for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs;

Stephen Cohen, Deputy Assistant  
Secretary for Human Rights and  
Security Assistance;

Jaime Rozenblum, an Argentine  
businessman;

Barry Shillto, Washington representative of Teledyne Corp.;

William Strong, Corporate Vice-President of Teledyne Corp.

The meeting took place from about 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 1979.

1. Ms. Derian welcomed Mr. Rozenblum and suggested that he begin by describing his view of the situation in Argentina.

2. Mr. Rozenblum stated that there were two ways of doing things: the hard, punitive way and the soft way -- and that the soft way was much more effective.

3. Ms. Derian responded that the question was not that of choosing a hard approach versus a soft approach. Instead, the Congress had enacted legislation, requiring the Executive to take into account human rights performance in allocating scarce resources for military and economic aid and in approving arms sales. In accordance with this general legislation and also with a specific statute covering Argentina, arms sales were now prohibited. But this was not a question of telling Argentina what to do or of punishing Argentina. It was rather a matter of simply, in accordance with our laws, not taking actions which associate the U.S. and its people with violations of human rights.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

J.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

X Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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4. Ms. Derian added that there had been terrible things done in Argentina and that it was very difficult for the Argentine government to make significant changes. There had been little progress. Despite repeated visits by high-ranking U.S. officials in 1977 and 1978, there had also been many broken promises. The government had a terrible problem on its hands. It had Balkanized the country and local commanders were given great authority which they often abused. Now they were afraid to change or to let up, especially out of fear that they would be called to account for all that had been done.

5. Ms. Derian next mentioned anti-semitism and persecution of Argentine Jews.

6. Mr. Rozenblum, noting that he, himself, was Jewish, stated that he disagreed that government anti-semitism existed.

7. Ms. Derian replied by noting that Jewish prisoners were more often singled out for torture, that Nazi doctrines were found in military publications, and that the offices of the American Jewish Committee in Buenos Aires had been ransacked.

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Corrected:PMD:3/1/79